

Lighting The Road To The Future

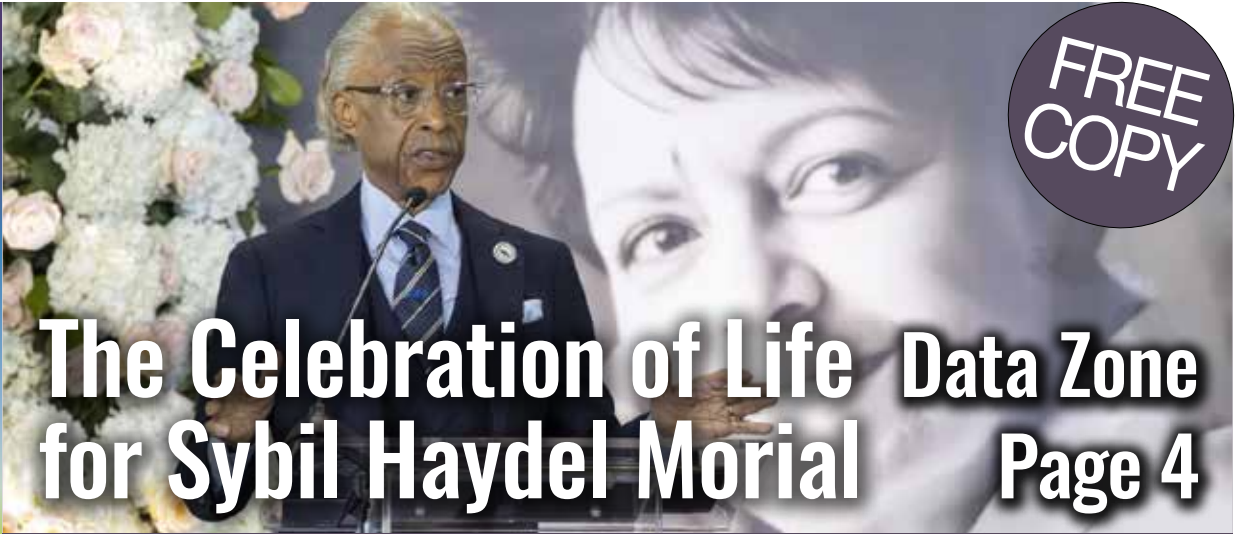
New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY



The Celebration of Life for Sybil Haydel Morial Data Zone Page 4

September 28 - October 4, 2024 59th Year Volume 22 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Vibrant Styles Debut at New Orleans Fashion Week 2024



Page 2



Newsmaker

Jazz Legend
Delfeayo Marsalis
Premiere

Page 6

National News

National Crime
Plummets



Page 7

Vibrant Styles Debut at New Orleans Fashion Week 2024



Left to Right: 2 piece athleisure set, sunshine yellow crop top and jogger pants, Designer Jihad Doucette, Chimera; Leopard print crop top with high waist, wide leg pants, and Burnt red print pant set with white crop top, both by Designer Clint Downing; Fuchsia sheer body-con dress with black metallic polka-dots, Designer Breanna Monet.

Story by Makenna Mincey
Data News Weekly Contributor

What does it look like when New Orleans Fashion Week is in full effect? The steps of Gallier Hall are adorned with lush red carpet and black curtains. Well-dressed fashion ambassadors from across the city

and region wait in lines extending all the way down St. Charles Avenue – all for their turn to enter a New Orleans runway.

Inside, stagehands are dressed in unsuspecting, yet chic black, directing the chaos that is guests trying to find the perfect seat, while models get dressed. Soon, the front rows and back rows are all filled with

the many fashion enthusiasts as the music begins. The show has begun.

“Every year, my goal is to always bring something new, fresh, and exciting ... something our artists and fashion aficionados will enjoy,” said Tracee Dundas, who founded New Orleans Fashion Week in 2011, hoping to showcase high fashion in the Big Easy.

Photographer for all photos: Derix Dugan of Depicted Images

Cover Photo: Vibrant orange blazer with purple fringe, Designer Kate Fusilier, Blingdana.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	State & Local News . . .	6
Data Zone	4	National News	7
Newsmaker	6		

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher		Production
Edwin Buggage	DNW Staff Writer	Pubinator.com
Editor		Editorial and
Sharonda Green	N.O. Agenda	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Makenna Mincey	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur		@gmail.com
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Months of work by designers, models, and organizers culminated to one big fashion night on Friday, Sept. 20th at the opening fashion show for the weekend. Since Dundas's first year putting on the show, she said it has continued to grow.

"It's amazing that it has continued. When I started in 2011 – that was the inaugural year- I wasn't sure it was going to sustain, and here we are 12 seasons later," Dundas said.

This year's New Orleans Fashion Week featured 38 designers whose style ranged from streetwear to black tie formal. Friday's show highlighted the latest collections from 15 of those designers. For the Baton Rouge-based designer, Breana Taylor, this latest collection was about getting out of her comfort zone and translating her style in a brand-new way.

"If you see my previous work I'm really a strictly denim and leather girlie, so I was like 'This time I have to do something different' [and] kind of get out of that mindset of just working with things I'm used to and really work with new things," said the Breana Monét Line Found-



Left to Right: Mix print with polka-dot and pattern swing dress, and sunshine yellow off shoulder crop top with keyhole cutout and print pattern swing skirt both by Designer Marnita Miller, EFABB.

er and Designer, Breana Taylor.

"For this, I wanted it to be more fun...and kind of get out of my school mindset of having it perfect, perfect, perfect and experiment," she continued.

Taylor is a recent graduate of

Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She received her degree in Apparel Design in May 2023, but has loved fashion her whole life. In addition to her collection pieces, Taylor handcrafts custom one-of-a-kind pieces for clients, such as At-

lanta rapper Kaliiii.

"I feel like I grew the passion [for design] earlier in my years. The thing that inspired me to pursue that as a career was just chasing passion. I was like 'I love it. So I'm going to make it work,'" Taylor said.

The determination to follow a dream is one shared by other regional designers. New Orleans Fashion Week features mostly up-and-coming designers and is often many new designer's first runway show.

"It's rewarding that so many designers have found a voice, and we've helped them build a platform. When they succeed it raises our event to the next level," Dundas said.

Newcomb Studio, founded by Tulane University students Coco Parris & Taylor Guillotte drew inspiration from Gen-Z Fashion Trends like Coquette Style to Craft-Unique pieces especially for Green Wave students. Jeta McCreary's Designs were fully crocheted, pushing the boundaries of what could be done with a needle and yarn. And Billy Raye Luxury simply took audiences to church.

"It's always been a dream of mine, being that I'm a COGIC [Church of God in Christ] baby. Watching my grandmother wear her hats and my dad always having his suits matchy-matchy. It just sparked something on the inside," said Billie Raye Luxury Founder and Designer, Reggie Hammonds.

Hammonds is a graduate of the Art Institute of Atlanta, where he studied fashion marketing, but his experiences bring forth an inspiration that can't be found in a classroom.

Hammonds speaks about his father's passing as a turning point for his life and his brand. The brand name Billie Raye Luxury pays homage to Hammonds late father who inspired the vibrant, full-of-life styles seen on the runway. Hammonds included bright hues of yellow, purple, and blue that took on their own persona as the models came down the runway.

"Just be bold and be you, and be confident in whatever you put on," Hammonds said on what his collection represents.

Cover Story, Continued on page 5.

ROUSES MARKETS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
WEEKLY SPECIALS

WWW.ROUSES.COM/WEEKLY-ADS

Prices good at New Orleans, Metairie, Gretna, Kenner, Marrero, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations
September 25th thru October 2nd, 2024.

SAVE
\$103
LB

SOLD IN BAG - BONE-IN
Whole Sirloin
Pork Roast

ONLY
96¢
LB

SAVE
\$298
When You Buy 2

5 LB BAG
Rouses
Russet Potatoes

ONLY
2/\$5
LIMIT 2

≡ Dollar Days Sale! ≡

THROUGHOUT
THE WHOLE STORE!

YOUR CHOICE \$1

2.44 - 2.9 OZ
Armour
Lunch Makers EA

IN OUR MEAT DEPARTMENT

U.S. #1
Louisiana
Sweet Potatoes LB

LOUISIANA LOCAL

IN OUR PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

YOUR CHOICE \$2

15 OZ PACK
Ball Park
Franks EA

MISSISSIPPI FARM RAISED

Fresh
Catfish
Nuggets LB

MISSISSIPPI LOCAL

IN OUR MEAT DEPARTMENT

IN OUR SEAFOOD DEPARTMENT

24 OZ HONEY GOLD,
RUBY RED OR SUNRISE MEDLEY
Tasteful Selections
Potatoes EA

IN OUR PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

YOUR CHOICE \$3

8 OZ
Rouses Hummus
OR 4 OZ
Stonefire NAAN EA

IN OUR DELI DEPARTMENT

FIND MORE WAYS TO SAVE AT ROUSES

The Celebration of Life for Sybil Haydel Morial

There was a very strong community turn-out for an exemplary First Lady of New Orleans. Politicians, community leaders, family and friends including national community leaders such as former ambassador Andrew Young and the Rev. Al Sharpton were also in attendance paying tribute to Mrs. Morial. First Lady Jill Biden paid her respects in a video played for attendees at the service held at Xavier University, where Morial attended school and worked for 28 years.

She was the widow of New Orleans first Black Mayor Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial and the mother of former Mayor Marc H. Morial. She was a community leader, Civil Rights, Activist, former school educator, a longtime Xavier administrator.

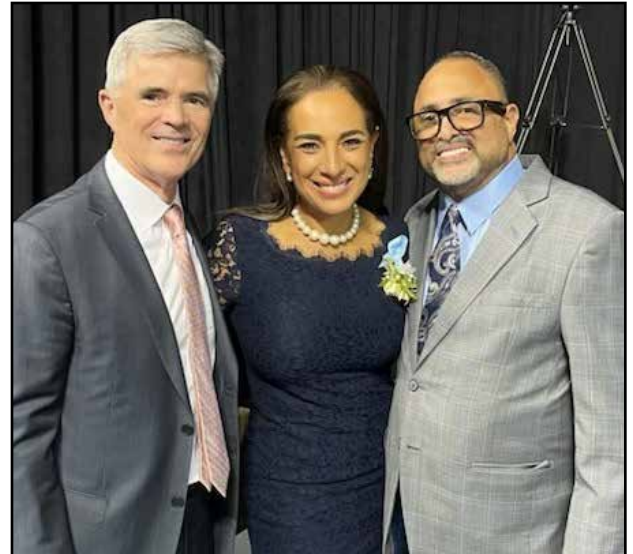
A huge photo of her, framed by flowers, stood on the stage in Xavier's Convocation Center, where her seven grandchildren were the first family members to speak.

Kemah Dennis Morial, the eldest of Sybil and Dutch Morial's grandchildren, spoke first.

The two-hour ceremony featured musical tributes, speeches from family and political leaders, and even a special audio message from musician Stevie Wonder. Many remembered Morial as a fierce advocate for social justice, the wife of New Orleans' first Black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial and a loving family matriarch.

"She was always a queen," said her daughter, Cheri Morial Ausberry. "Petite in stature but mighty and strong in deeds and actions."

The ceremony was one part of a two-day stretch of events marking Morial's life. On Sunday, the community was invited to a public visitation. Monday's ceremony was followed up with a traditional second line and private family mass and burial.



Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



Left to Right: r polka-dot top with maxi paint skirt, by Designer Casme, The BreakRoom Smash; Birdcage headpiece, black fringe dress with statement belt, Designer Kate Fusilier, Blingdana,Paint splattered olive green bubble coat, Paint splash, navy blue overall with crossbody bag, both by Designer Casme, The Break Room Smash; Monochromatic royal blue suit with silver embellishment and matching button front shirt, by Reggie Hammonds, BillieRaye; Raspberry 2 piece set, halter cowl neckline top,matching fitted floor length skirt, by Romey Roe; White vest with beading and sheer pants; White sheer flowing dress with handbag; White lace off shoulder dress with spike gold necklace, gold belt and white hobo bag, all by Designer Sophie Omoro, odAomo; White sheer sequins gown with white cap and oversize hat by Romey Roe; Royal blue corset over white button front top, maxi skirt with silver embellishment by Reggie Hammonds, BillieRaye.

Vis-

www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

it

Jazz Legend Delfeayo Marsalis to Premiere Theme Music Composed for the African Diaspora Consortium at October 5th Conversation and Concert

New Orleans Agenda

Jazz legend Delfeayo Marsalis and his Uptown Jazz Orchestra will debut new theme music for the African Diaspora Consortium (ADC) at the Fourth Annual Conversation and Concert Series on Saturday, October 5th at 6 p.m. at the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music. The event will feature Actress and Art Collector CCH Pounder.

When asked about his inspiration for composing the theme music for the ADC, Marsalis expressed a desire to convey the Emotional Essence of the Consortium, aiming to make it more relatable to a broader audience. The new composition,



Delfeayo Marsalis New Orleans debut of a composition that speaks to the ongoing experience of African-Descended Black people worldwide

likened by Marsalis to a movement by Beethoven or Mozart, features a conversation between a small orchestra of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and rhythm. It encapsulates a range of emotions, from serious to playful and up-tempo to slow, while ensuring it remains entertaining.

Marsalis emphasized that the new theme music will not simply be relegated to the ADC Website or a virtual archive; instead, it will become a part of the Orchestra's regular rotation, evolving and changing over time in line with the Spirit of Jazz.

As ADC's Global Music Artistic Director, Marsalis has played a crucial role in connecting African-

descended artists globally and educating the public about the historical traditions shaping their efforts. He also leads the Uptown Jazz Orchestra and the Uptown Music Theatre while advocating for protecting significant cultural sites in New Orleans.

The African Diaspora Consortium seeks to educate the world about the resilience and contributions of diaspora populations to global cultures.

The Conversation and Concert are part of the Fourth Annual Celebration of the African Diaspora, which will be held in New Orleans from October 3rd to 6th. Tickets for the Conversation and Concert are available on Eventbrite.

State & Local News

Melissa Odum Received Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award at 6th Annual Black Spa Expo in Atlanta, G

Data News Staff Edited Report

Melissa Odum, the Visionary Founder of Queendom Aesthetics, was honored with the prestigious Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th Annual Black Spa Expo. This marked a significant moment in her illustrious career. This esteemed award recognized Melissa's exceptional contributions to the beauty and wellness industry and her unwavering commitment to empowering others through her work.

Melissa Odum's remarkable journey epitomizes excellence and innovation in the beauty field. Under her leadership, Queendom Aesthetics has set new standards for quality and service, earning her this notable recognition. The Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award underscores her commitment to advancing the industry and inspiring future professionals.



Melissa Odum, Founder of Queendom Aesthetics, proudly holds her Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the 6th Annual Black Spa Expo on behalf of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

The Black Spa Expo, a premier event created to highlight the achievements and contributions of Black professionals in the beauty and spa industry, featured various activities. This year's event included a series of awards, workshops, and panel discussions aimed at addressing key topics in the industry. The Expo also presented opportunities for attendees to engage with leading figures and explore the latest trends and innovations.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award," says Melissa Odum, CEO of Queendom Aesthetics. "This recognition is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the entire Queendom Aesthetics team. It motivates me to continue pushing boundaries, striving for excellence, and supporting others in their professional journeys."

Melissa Odum's recognition with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award highlights her significant impact on the industry.

Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.
- Compensation is competitive.
- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

Call (504) 821-7421 to apply.



National Crime Plummetts, Defying Perception of a Crime Wave

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The latest FBI data on Monday, September 23, 2024, revealed a significant drop in national crime rates from 2022 to 2023, contradicting widespread public perception of a crime wave. According to the FBI's Annual "Summary of Crime in the Nation," violent crime fell by 3%, while property crime decreased by 2.4%.

The most severe offenses saw particularly dramatic declines: murder and non-negligent manslaughter dropped by 11.6%, marking the most significant single year decrease in two decades. Rape also declined by 9.4%. These decreases represent a clear shift as the U.S. continues to recover from the instability caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, which had previously exacerbated certain criminal activities.

Property crime followed similar trends, with burglary down by 7.6%. However, motor vehicle theft surged by 12.6%, while shoplifting incidents spiked from 999,394 in 2022 to over 1.1 million in 2023 — a return to pre-pandemic levels. Experts suggest that these upticks may reflect the reopening of businesses and the return to more typical consumer behavior following the Pandemic's restrictions and security measures.

While the nation as a whole is experiencing a steady decline in violent crime, the gap between reality and public perception persists. Social media, doorbell cameras, and neighborhood apps have all contributed to increased awareness, which has increased the visibility of individual incidents and created an exaggerated sense of widespread danger.

Despite this, FBI data shows a consistent downward trend,



with the violent crime rate falling from 377.1 per 100,000 people in 2022 to 363.8 per 100,000 people in 2023. The data also refutes claims by former President Donald Trump, who in a recent debate with Vice President Kamala Harris, dismissed the FBI's numbers as fraudulent and painted a picture of a nation gripped by chaos. Trump claimed that major cities were excluded from the FBI's data, but the bureau clarified that it accounted for reporting gaps in its estimates and included data from every city with a population exceeding one million.

The FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) gathered data from over 700 additional agencies in 2023 compared to 2022, covering more than 315 million people—94.3% of the U.S. population.

President Joe Biden responded to the FBI report by highlighting the success of his administration's efforts to combat crime and bolster public safety. In a statement, Biden noted, "Americans are safer today than when we took office. None

of this happened by accident. Vice President Harris and I made historic investments in public safety, and the results are clear."

Biden emphasized the role of the American Rescue Plan, which provided over \$15 billion to help state and local governments fund critical public safety measures, in-

cluding preventing cuts to police budgets and supporting violence intervention programs. "We've taken decisive action to stop the illegal flow of guns and strengthen community policing. As the numbers show, we're making progress in keeping our communities safe," Biden added.

KMEZ 102.9
New Orleans' Best Mix of R&B

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

f KMEZ 102.9 @mykmez1029
@kmez1029

www.kmez1029.com

This space can be yours for only \$80
CALL NOW!!!
504-821-7421

DATA CLASSIFIED
Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

**Freelance
Writers
Wanted**

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Job Opportunity

**Administrative
Assistant
Wanted**

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

This space can be yours for only \$50

Call Now!

504-821-7421



Be there for those in your circle.

As you get older, your risk for severe flu, COVID-19, and RSV is higher. Don't let these illnesses keep you from the moments that matter. Get vaccinated and lower your risk so you can be there for those you love.

Get started at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)

**RISK LESS.
DO MORE.**
Get this season's vaccines

Paid for by the U.S. Department
of Health and Human Services.

